Stylistics, Emeralds & Ruffin due

STYLISTICS, currently high in the NME Chart with their Avco single "Rockin' Roll Baby", are coming to Britain for a tour of one-nighter venues in late April. Details of their itinerary are still being confirmed. They will also undertake radio and TV appearances, and a new single will be issued to tie in with their visit.

● JIMMY RUFFIN begins a long British tour next month, opening on March 10 and extending until late July. First dates to be confirmed are Oldham Bailey's (March 17 week) and Sheffield Bailey's (24 week). He will also be playing a series of major concerts in April with the Detroit Spinners, details of which will be announced shortly.

● CHUBBY CHECKER returns to Britain in the spring for a 21-day one-nighter tour. He is due to open on May 1. Dates and venues are at present being finalised, and will be announced shortly.

● DETROIT EMERALDS are set for a return British visit in April. Venues so far confirmed are Doncaster Bailey's and Hull Tiffany's (April 23), Hull Westfield Country Club (25), Doncaster Top Rank (26), York Cat's Whiskers and Leeds' Cat's Whiskers (May 15) and Birmingham Barbarella's (17).

● NANA MOUSKOURI returns to Britain in early spring for a concert tour promoted by Robert Paterson. Dates are being finalised for the April period.

Nazareth: twenty concerts in May

NAZARETH are to undertake a 20-venue British concert tour in May, it was announced this week. They have recently finished work on their new album, and this will be issued in May to tie in with the tour. In the meantime, the band have a new single issued by Mooncrest on March 1 — produced by Roger Glover, it is a group composition titled "Shang Hai'd In Shang Hai". Nazareth tour Europe from this Saturday (23) to March 18, taking in Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Finland.

CARAVAN BANNED BY R.A.H.

LONDON's Royal Albert Hall management have rejected a proposed concert booking by Caravan with the New Symphonia Orchestra because, they say, it falls within the meaning of their ban on rock. Caravan's live album with this orchestra, recorded last autumn at Drury Lane Theatre Royal, is being released by Decca in mid-March — and the band wants to play a major London date at Easter to promote the set.

Caravan are now seeking an alternative venue for their projected concert. Meanwhile, hopes that the Albert Hall was gradually relaxing its rock ban — as evidenced by their acceptance of a tentative John Mayall booking this spring, reported last week — seem to have been dashed by this latest veto. A group spokesman commented: "At any rate, it shows a remarkable inconsistency on their part."

Drifters venues

FURTHER DATES have been added to the upcoming British tour by the Drifters. In addition to venues listed by NME during the past two weeks, the group appear at Hinkley Tiffany's (April 8), Torquay Paradise Hotel (May 9), Farnworth Blighty's and Manchester Fagin's (May 12 week), Sheffield City Hall (21), Spennymoor Variety Club (22), Blackpool Locarno (23) and Batley Variety Club (26 week). Promoter is Henry Sellers.

Melanie comeback

MELANIE returned to the concert platform this month, after a year's absence, when she became the first contemporary artist to perform at New York's Metropolitan Opera House. It was also the first time she had been accompanied on stage by a pianist — her musical arranger Ron Frangipane (see picture).

She is now planning a lengthy

KEITH EMERSON in action during ELP's current U.S. tour

ELP for Wembley

EMERSON, LAKE & PALMER'S three British concerts — plans for which were exclusively revealed by NME four weeks ago — have now been finalised. They are to appear for three successive days at the giant 10,000-capacity Wembley Empire Pool on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 18, 19 and 20 (all at 7.30 p.m.). Promoter is Harvey Goldsmith.

Tickets are priced at £2.20 and £1.65 and mail order bookings will be accepted immediately. They should be addressed to Box Office ELP, Empire Pool, Wembley, Middlesex, with cheques made payable to "Wembley Stadium Ltd." and all applicants must enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope. Any remaining tickets will be put on sale at the box office and through the usual agencies on March 11.

It is understood that a "Best of ELP" album is at present being compiled, and it is hoped to release this — provided there are no additional manufacturing difficulties — at about the time of the concerts.

Glitter calls off Rhodesian visit

GARY GLITTER's projected series of concerts in Rhodesia next month has been called off, because it would have involved playing to segregated audiences. A spokesman for Glitter told NME: "The tour was set up on the understanding that there would be no segregation, and there was never any question of defying the Musicians' Union ruling. Gary himself has strong feelings on this subject and, as soon as he discovered that the promoters were not complying with our demand, he insisted that the visit be cancelled."

Stomu: new dates

STOMU YAMASH'TA's cur-

RICK GRECH IN CHARGE

RICK GRECH, formerly with Blind Faith and Traffic, has joined the line-up of new band Charge who are currently preparing for a major debut tour. He replaces Alan Spenner, who was originally to have been the bassist in the group. Neil Hubbard was also in the band at the outset, but he subsequently withdrew and a replacement for him is now being sought.

Confirmed personnel to date are Rosetta Hightower (vocals), Lee Van der Bilt (vocals and percussion), Mike Woods (guitars), Ian Green (keyboards and bass), Smiley De Jonnies (Afro percussion), Godfrey Maclean (drums) and Rick Grech (bass, violin and guitars).

Grech, who toured Britain with the Crickets last year, flew to Los Angeles last week to complete material for the next Crickets album. While in the States, he will also be finalising the complete line-up of Charge whose debut album — produced by Ian Green and Ray Singer — will be issued shortly by Fresh Air Records.

ELO for States

ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA, currently midway through an extensive British tour, leave on March 20 for their longest American tour to date. It comprises coast-to-coast concerts plus radio and TV, to aid promotion of their "On The Third Day" album and their new single "Ma

DR. HOOK GIGS SET

DR. HOOK & the Medicine Show are to play four major concerts in Britain in early April, at the tail end of an extensive European tour. They appear at Birmingham Barbarella's (April 3), Manchester Stoneground (5), London Rainbow (6) and Hemel Hempstead Pavilion (7). The outfit will previously have visited Holland, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

A new Dr. Hook single titled "Cops And Robbers" will be issued to tie in with the visit, and the band will devote April 4 to shooting a promotional film of the record, for probable use by BBC-2's "Old Grey Whistle Test". The tour is being promoted by Karl Fisher.

Further concerts by Glen Campbell

GLEN CAMPBELL is to headline at London Royal Festival Hall during his late March British tour, in addition to his four concerts at Drury Lane Theatre Royal. He is also to play an extra day in Glasgow, and another new booking takes him to Southport. But concerts provisionally fixed for Manchester and Liverpool have been called off to make way for the extra London and Glasgow shows. Support act is Diana Trask, and Campbell's revised itinerary — two performances each night — is:

BOURNEMOUTH Winter Gardens (March 23), BRISTOL Hippodrome (24), LONDON Royal Festival Hall (25), GLASGOW Apollo Centre (27 and 28), SOUTHPORT New Theatre (29), LONDON DRURY LANE Theatre Royal (30 and 31).

It's not cricket

A NEW Thursday-night rock series begins in London next week on an experimental basis, and the unlikely venue is the Tavern at Lord's Cricket Ground. George Melly and the Feetwarmers open the season on February 28, followed by the JSD Band on March 7. Colin Blunstone is an advance booking for March 28 and among acts being negotiated are Back Door and Vinegar Joe. Admission is 80p.

Elton & Quo at the Pool

ELTON JOHN headlines in concert at Wembley Empire Pool on Bank Holiday Monday, May 27. This will be the highlight of his previously-reported spring concert tour of Britain — details of the remainder of his schedule are still being finalised, but they are expected to include up to 20 venues.

The previous day (Sunday, 26) STATUS QUO appear at the 10,000-capacity Wembley Pool. This is also expected to be part of a nationwide spring tour by the band, of which details are still awaited.

● No booking information on either the Elton John or the Status Quo concert is yet available.

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